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SSCI

17 July 1986
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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Discussion with Bernie McMahon

When discussing the conditions under which GAO officers would participate in SSCI's preparation of a report on Agency personnel issues, it quickly became apparent that the only reason SSCI had turned to GAO was financial--Gramm-Rudman had led to a cut in SSCI's budget, and funds were unavailable to hire outside consultants who in the past have provided such specialized services as may be needed for this report.

In making the decision to go with GAO, SSCI was not unaware of the Agency's reluctance to permit a close relationship with a Congressional agency which we do not want to become our watchdog. However, Senators Cohen and Boren were adamantly opposed to asking the Agency to second CIA employees to SSCI to help with the study.

When I countered that there might be other ways to solve the same problem, Bernie showed interest. I owe him a response. For example, I believe he might be satisfied with Agency annuitants, provided CIA could somehow pay their salaries. There is also the possibility of finding State Department annuitants or DoD annuitants, provided someone can pay their salary. In other words, SSCI is not wedded to the GAO approach, but is strapped for funds. I believe they are prepared to entertain a counterproposal from us.


Dave Gries

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cc: Danny Childs

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